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THE Livestock and Wool SITUATION

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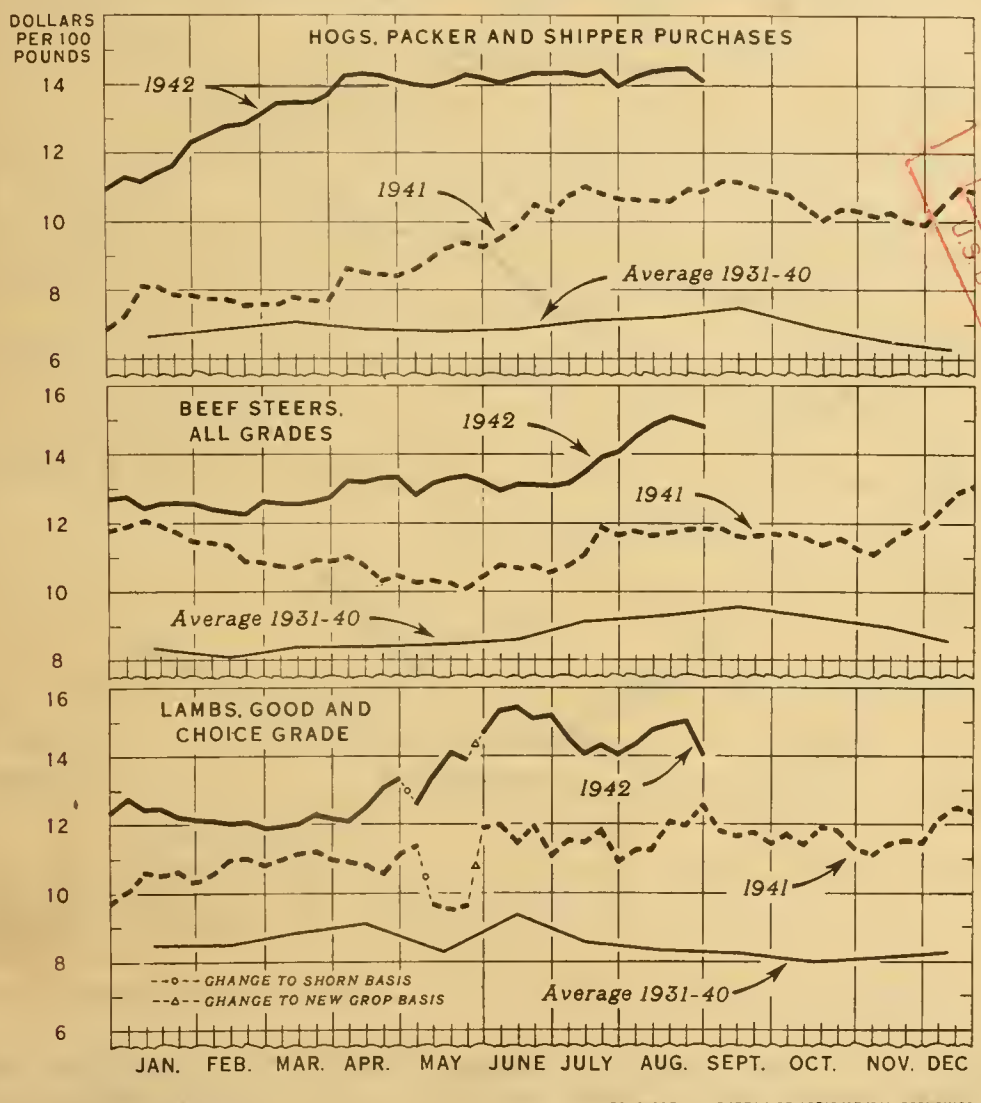
PRICES OF SLAUGHTER LIVESTOCK AT CHICAGO, AVERAGE 1931-40, AND 1941-42



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MARKETINGS OF ALL LIVESTOCK HAVE BEEN GREATER IN 1942 THAN IN 1941, BUT THE EFFECT OF THE INCREASED SUPPLIES UPON PRICES HAS BEEN MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE STRONG WARTIME DEMAND FOR MEATS. IN RECENT MONTHS HOG PRICES HAVE BEEN AT THE MAXIMUM LEVEL PERMITTED BY CEILING PRICES FOR PORK AND LARD. WITHOUT CEILINGS FOR MEATS, HOG PRICES PROBABLY WOULD HAVE RISEN TO MUCH HIGHER LEVEL, AND HIGHER CATTLE PRICES ALSO MIGHT HAVE PREVAILED. BUT BECAUSE OF EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE MARKETINGS, LAMB PRICES PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE MUCH HIGHER THAN THEY NOW ARE UNDER THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED CEILING PRICES FOR DRESSED LAMB.

FIGURE 1.-- MARKETINGS OF LIVESTOCK FOR SLAUGHTER HAVE BEEN RUNNING MUCH GREATER THAN A YEAR EARLIER. IN THE FIRST 8 MONTHS OF 1942 INCREASES IN INSPECTED SLAUGHTER OVER 1941 HAVE AMOUNTED TO 17 PERCENT FOR HOGS, 15 PERCENT FOR CATTLE, 7 PERCENT FOR SHEEP AND LAMBS, AND 4 PERCENT FOR CALVES. EXCEPT FOR CALVES, THE YEAR'S TOTAL SLAUGHTER OF EACH SPECIES OF MEAT ANIMALS IS EXPECTED TO BE THE LARGEST ON RECORD.

THE LIVESTOCK AND WOOL SITUATION

Summary

The market movement of the large 1942 spring pig crop soon will get under way. Considerable numbers of new-crop hogs already have been reported at some markets, and a somewhat earlier than usual market movement of spring pigs appears likely this fall. Slaughter supplies of hogs during the next 3 months (October-December) are expected to exceed those of a year earlier by at least 25 percent. No great decline is expected in hog prices during the next several months unless temporary market gluts should result from unusual concentrations in marketing. With land-lease and domestic consumer purchases of hog products expected to be stepped up sharply in coming weeks, total demand for meats appears great enough to absorb the large seasonal increase in supplies at prices not much lower than those which have prevailed during the past several months.

Shipments of feeder cattle to 7 Corn Belt States were about 20 percent greater this August than last, with the heavy movement continuing in early September. Uncertainties regarding the possible effect of price ceilings upon feeding margins probably have discouraged some cattle feeders from buying cattle. But with abundant supplies of corn and other feeds in the Corn Belt, it appears likely that the total number of cattle fed during the 1942-43 feeding season will again be large.

Contracting for feeder lambs in the Western States was curtailed somewhat in early September, following a decline in fat lamb prices. Strong competition for feeder lambs has been reported in recent weeks, and with abundant feed supplies in most of the principal feeding areas, the number of lambs fed this season may exceed the record large number fed last year.

Despite the slightly smaller lamb crop this year than last, marketings of sheep and lambs for slaughter since late spring have totaled about 8 percent larger than a year earlier. This, at a time when range conditions are generally good, indicates that sheep numbers probably have reached a peak and that some liquidation of breeding stock may be under way.

Recent negotiations by the Army Quartermaster for substantial quantities of wool cloth and blankets to be made of 100 percent domestic wool have had a strengthening effect on wool prices. Boston market prices of most domestic wools are now close to the peak prices of early spring. Sales at western auctions in early September were reported at ceiling levels. Mill consumption of apparel wool reached a new record high of 11.5 million pounds a week (scoured basis) in July. The July rate was 7 percent higher than in June and 23 percent higher than in July 1941.

-- September 21, 1942

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Hog Prices Decline in Early September

Hog prices declined moderately after mid-August, reflecting a sharp increase in marketings. The moderate decline in hog prices was reflected in a similar reduction in the hog-corn price ratio. The ratio for the week ended September 12, based upon Chicago average prices, was 16.9, still higher than a year earlier and considerably higher than the long-time average.

The average price of $14.45 for butcher hogs at Chicago in the week ended September 12 was still substantially higher than in most previous weeks of 1942, and nearly $2.50 higher than in the corresponding week of 1941. The United States average price of $14.13 received by farmers for hogs in mid-August was $3.65 higher than a year earlier and the highest in over 20 years.

Hog Slaughter and Storage Stocks Reduced Seasonally in August

Further seasonal reduction in hog marketings occurred during August, but supplies increased considerably during early September as new crop hogs began to be marketed. Inspected hog slaughter during August totaled about 3.2 million head, 17 percent less than in July but 15 percent more than in August 1941. Slaughter was the largest for the month since 1933. Packing

sows accounted for 33 percent of total packer and shipper purchases at 7 important markets during August, compared with 30 percent a year earlier. The actual number of sows marketed during July and August probably was about a little over 30 percent greater than a year earlier, a little more than the percentage increase in the number of sows farrowed last spring.

The average weight of barrows and gilts marketed during August was about the same this year as last. But the increased proportion of packing sows in total marketings was reflected in a somewhat heavier average weight for all hogs than in August last year. So far in 1942 average weights of hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection have been about 1-1/2 pounds heavier than in 1942 when the average for the year was 241 pounds per hog.

The net out-of-storage movement of pork during August amounted to nearly 94 million pounds, reducing stocks on September 1 to 340 million pounds. The September 1 figure for pork was 145 million pounds less than last year, and about 130 million pounds below the 1931-40 average for that date. Lard stocks (including rendered pork fat) were reduced about 15 million pounds during August. Storage holdings on September 1 were nearly 83 million pounds, compared with the record large September 1 stocks of 288 million pounds last year and the 1931-40 average for that date of 138 million pounds. Storage stocks held by the FSCC on September 1 amounted to 49 million pounds of pork and 23 million pounds of lard and rendered pork fat.

Government Purchases of Pork and Lard Also Reduced

Government buying of hog products was reduced sharply during August in line with the seasonally reduced supplies. Pork purchases by the FSCC for the month amounted to only 87 million pounds, compared with a monthly rate of around 200 million pounds during the late spring and early summer. August lard purchases of 35 million pounds were less than half the April-June monthly average. Purchases are expected to be increased sharply during the next several months.

Cattle Prices Moderately Stronger in Mid-September

Cattle prices declined somewhat in late August and early September, reflecting exceptionally heavy marketings. Prices then strengthened and in mid-September were about as high as in early August. The average price of good grade beef steers at Chicago for the week ended September 12 was $14.95, compared with $14.90 a month earlier and $11.70 a year earlier.

Prices for feeder cattle fluctuated moderately in recent weeks but continued near the level prevailing since mid-summer. The average price of feeder steers at Kansas City in mid-September was $11.75, the same as a month earlier but about $1.65 higher than in September 1941.

Cattle Slaughter at Record Level

Marketings of slaughter cattle continued exceptionally large during August, reflecting a heavy movement of both range cattle and cattle from feed

lots. Inspected slaughter totaled slightly more than 1.1 million head, the largest on record for August, 5 percent more than in July and 14 percent more than in August 1941. So far in 1942 cattle slaughter has totaled 15 percent greater than for the same period last year.

Inspected calf slaughter of 460,000 head during August was slightly smaller than a month earlier but was 11 percent greater than a year earlier. The 8-month (January-August) accumulation for calf slaughter is 4 percent larger this year than last.

Lamb Prices Decline Sharply; Slaughter Large

Unusually heavy marketings of sheep and lambs during late August and early September were reflected in a sharp decline in lamb prices. The average price of $13.95 for good and choice grade slaughter lambs at Chicago for the week ended September 12 compares with $14.95 three weeks earlier and $11.80 in the corresponding week last year. Average prices were about $6.00 for good and choice grade slaughter ewes at Chicago in mid-September, nearly $1.00 higher than a year earlier.

Despite the slightly smaller lamb crop this year than last in the past 2 months slaughter supplies of sheep and lambs have been much larger than a year earlier. Slaughter under Federal inspection during August was a record, totaling 1,840,000 head, 8 percent more than in July and 21 percent more than in August 1941.

OUTLOOK - HOGS

BACKGROUND.- Hog prices declined to a low level in 1940, and a reduction in the 1941 pig crop was in prospect. In December 1940 farmers were urged not to reduce the spring pig crop, and in April 1941 they were asked to step up hog production as rapidly as possible. Government support of hog prices was assured at a level substantially higher than in late 1940, and prices advanced sharply in response to expanding consumer demand and lend-lease buying. As a result, the 1941 crop was 5 million head greater than the 1940 crop; a further increase of 20 million head in the 1942 pig crop is indicated.

Seasonal Increase in Hog Marketings Soon to Get Under Way

The market movement of the large 1942 spring pig crop will get under way in volume within the next few weeks. Considerable numbers of new crop hogs already have been reported at some markets, and a somewhat earlier than usual market movement of spring pigs appears likely this fall. If the proportion of the spring crop marketed before January 1 is about average, slaughter supplies of hogs in the last quarter (October-December) of 1942 are expected to be at least 25 percent greater than in that period last year. Slaughter under Federal inspection for the quarter probably will total between 18 and 19 million head, 4 to 5 million head more than a year earlier.

Outlook For Hog Prices Continues Favorable

Despite the exceptionally heavy marketings in prospect for this fall and winter, no great decline in hog prices is expected during the next few months. Unless marketings should so exceed transportation and processing facilities as to result in temporarily glutted marketing conditions, the strong consumer demand, together with increased buying for lend-lease, is expected to absorb the increased production of pork and lard without a seriously depressing effect upon live hog prices. Ordinarily hog prices advance during the summer as marketings are reduced seasonally and then decline with the increase in supplies during the fall and winter. This year the summer peak in hog prices has been leveled off by the ceiling prices for pork and lard. Hence current prices for hogs may not be greatly above the level which normally could be expected on the basis of the prospective supply and demand conditions this fall and winter.

One factor of unusual importance in the outlook for hog prices during the next few weeks is the spread between live-hog and hog-product values. Packer competition for hogs has been very strong during the past several months, with the result that live hog prices have risen relative to prices for hog products at ceiling levels. Hence, this spread was reduced sharply and some packers reported financial losses. With hog supplies expected to increase greatly during the next several weeks, packers probably will be able to buy hogs at prices more nearly in line with the usual relationship to product values. As shown in the accompanying table, this widening of the margin would permit a decline in live hog prices of about $1 from the high August prices, even though prices for pork and lard are maintained at ceiling levels.

Table 1.- Monthly average wholesale value of hog products derived from 100 pounds live hog, compared with prices of live hogs, Chicago, 1936-41 average, 1942

Month	1936-41 average spread between live-hog and hog-product values	1942		
		Value of hog products obtained from 100 pounds live hog 1/	Average price live hogs 2/	Spread
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
January	.83	12.32	11.53	.79
February	.72	13.64	12.73	.91
March	.71	14.23	13.36	.87
April	.91	14.59	14.03	.56
May	.94	14.56	14.08	.48
June	.99	14.56	14.26	.30
July	.80	14.64	14.63	.01
August	1.04	14.72	14.92	-.20
September	1.31	3/ 14.77	3/ 14.35	3/ .42
October	1.00			
November	.96			
December	.81			

Compiled from Agricultural Marketing Administration reports.
1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis, lard rendered, carlot basis.
2/ Good and choice 180-220 pound weight.
3/ Week ended September 12.

Other factors which may influence hog prices during coming months are revisions in pork price ceilings now being formulated by the Office of Price Administration, and the possibility that ceilings will be established for prices of live hogs. Licensing of meat packers and wholesalers by Office of Price Administration, allocation of meat supplies, and prospective future action in consumers' rationing of meats also may influence live hog prices.

OUTLOOK - CATTLE

BACKGROUND.- Cattle numbers tend to fluctuate in cycles of around 15 years in length. A low point in the cycle was reached in 1938, but herds have been built up greatly since then. The total number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches on January 1, 1942 was slightly larger than the previous peak number at the beginning of 1934. In 1942 goals, farmers were asked to increase marketings of cattle this year rather than to increase production by continuing to hold back breeding stock. Strong consumer demand conditions have more than offset the effect on price of increased marketings of cattle during the past 12 months, and the general level of cattle prices is now the highest in over 20 years.

Cattle Marketings Expected to Continue Large During Remainder of 1942

So far in 1942 marketings of cattle for slaughter have totaled about 15 percent greater than a year earlier. A large part of this increase over 1941 has been in fed cattle from the Corn Belt. Because of the 19 percent reduction in the number of cattle on feed in the Corn Belt August 1, supplies of well-finished cattle during the remainder of the year may be a little smaller than in the fall and early winter of 1941. This decrease probably will be more than offset by marketings of grass cattle from all areas, however, and total cattle slaughter is expected to continue substantially greater than a year earlier. Even though the 15 percent rate of increase of the past 8 months should not be fully maintained during September-December, it is now quite certain that this year's cattle slaughter will set a new high record. Slaughter under Federal inspection may total more than 12 million head. This compares with 10.9 million head in 1941 and the previous record of 11.8 million head in 1918. Present indications are that the 1942 goal for total cattle and calf slaughter of 28 million head will be about reached.

Feeder Cattle Shipments Continue Larger Than a Year Earlier

Shipments of feeder cattle to the Corn Belt were large during the past month, despite some uncertainties in the cattlefeeding outlook. Shipments to seven Corn Belt States for August totaled 173,000 head, about 30,000 more than a year earlier. Purchases of feeder steers at four important feeder cattle markets during the period also were much larger than a year earlier, with the heavy movement continuing in early September.

As pointed out in the August issue of this report, the relationships between feeder cattle, feed, and fat cattle prices this summer and fall have not been particularly unfavorable, compared with other recent years. Uncertainties regarding the possible effect of price ceilings upon feeding margins probably have discouraged some cattle feeders from buying cattle. But with abundant supplies of corn and other feeds in the Corn Belt, it appears likely that the number of cattle fed in the 1942-43 feeding season will again be large.

Table 2.- Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle, 1941 and 1942

Month	Shipments to seven Corn Belt States 1/						Shipments of feeder steers from four markets 2/	
	Direct		From public stockyards		Total			
	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
January	28.9	16.8	75.1	72.3	104.0	89.1	48.2	53.6
February	16.7	12.1	54.1	49.2	72.8	61.3	39.4	42.9
March	24.9	17.1	57.8	67.4	82.7	84.5	44.8	58.8
April	31.6	42.2	72.8	84.1	108.4	126.3	56.6	72.9
May	32.1	27.1	63.9	63.8	96.0	90.9	36.8	45.7
June	23.3	18.4	46.4	61.2	69.7	79.6	27.7	32.5
July	24.2	18.0	58.6	56.0	82.7	74.0	31.8	25.7
August	45.1	57.4	97.6	115.4	142.7	172.8	53.1	82.7
September	117.2		153.0		270.2		110.7	
October	173.1		231.7		404.9		146.6	
November	91.4		182.2		273.6		94.9	
December	52.1		137.7		188.7		94.9	
Total	665.6		1,230.9		1,896.5		785.5	

1/ Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska.
2/ Chicago, Kansas City, St. Paul, Omaha.

OUTLOOK - SHEEP AND LAMBS

BACKGROUND.- The total sheep population of the United States has increased during the past several years. Numbers of sheep and lambs on farms and ranches at the beginning of 1942 totaled 56 million head. The 1942 lamb crop of 32.3 million head was slightly smaller than the record large crop of 1941. Lamb prices have advanced considerably during the past 4 years.

Moderate Reduction in Sheep Numbers Likely During 1942

Despite the slightly smaller lamb crop this year than last, marketings of sheep and lambs for slaughter since early May, the beginning of the spring lamb marketing season, have totaled about 8 percent larger than a year earlier. Some of this increase may have resulted from a larger than usual carry-over of yearlings into the 1942-43 marketing season. But with the sharp increase in slaughter during the past 2 months, and with range feed conditions

generally good, it now appears likely that a larger than usual proportion of the 1942 lamb crop is being marketed for slaughter, and fewer ewe lambs are being held for replacement in herds. This, together with the large marketings of ewe sheep, indicates that some reduction of sheep numbers, particularly in the Western Sheep States, may be under way. The total number of sheep and lambs on farms and ranches at the beginning of 1943 may be smaller than the record large number on hand a year earlier.

Lamb Feeding Situation

Contracting for feeder lambs in the Western States was curtailed somewhat in early September, following the recent decline in fat lamb prices. Contracting had been quite active with strong competition reported between feed lot operators from the various feeding areas and buyers for wheat field grazing. Wheat pastures are expected to provide at least as much feed for livestock grazing this fall as last. If shipments of feeder lambs to the Corn Belt during the next 2 months continue as large relative to a year earlier as in July and August, the total number of lambs fed in the 1942-43 feeding season may be a little larger than the record number fed last year.

THE WOOL SITUATION

BACKGROUND.- As a result of large production of wool fabrics for Army use and strong civilian demand, mill consumption of wool has been at a record level since the latter part of 1940. Because of the large prospective requirements for military use under war conditions and because of the possibility that wool imports (chiefly from Southern Hemisphere countries) could be sharply restricted, action was taken by the War Production Board in January 1942 to curtail the manufacture of wool for civilian uses. Wool prices advanced rapidly in 1940 and 1941 and maximum prices were established for wool by the Office of Price Administration in mid-December 1941. Local market prices for wool in the current season are the highest since 1925.

Sales Large, Prices Strengthen at Boston in August and Early September

Sales of domestic wool have been large and prices have strengthened during the past month. The opening of negotiations for large quantities of Army and lend-lease fabrics to be made of 100 percent domestic wool was chiefly responsible for the strong market position. Demand was centered on fine and 1/2 blood wools during most of the month but interest in medium grades increased when requests for Army cloth were found to require the use of large quantities of medium wools. Quoted prices for fine staple combing territory wools remained unchanged at $1.18-$1.20 a pound (scoured basis) for fine and $1.13-$1.16 for 1/2 blood. Prices on these wools are at or close to ceiling levels. Quoted prices on 3/8 and 1/4 blood bright fleece wools advanced 2 cents a pound (grease basis). These grades were sold at 50-54 cents a pound in the early part of September compared with 49-51 cents a month earlier and about 48 cents a year earlier. The average price received by farmers for wool

was 39.4 cents a pound on August 15 compared with 39.2 cents on July 15 and 35.6 cents on August 15, 1942. The August price this year was 142 percent of the parity price for wool.

Western Wool Auctions Bring Ceiling Prices

Substantial quantities of wool were offered at auction in Western markets in the latter part of August and in early September. Auctions were held at Denver, Billings (Montana), Portland, and San Francisco. Demand was good at all centers and most of the offerings were sold. Buyers and market observers report that prices were at or close to ceiling levels in most cases. Prices at the 3 days sale at Denver, August 27-29, ranged from 27 to 55 cents a pound (grease basis), with an average price of 40.6 cents on sales of 2,567,400 pounds. Sales at Billings, Montana in early September totaled 2,728,900 pounds at an average price of 46.2 cents a pound. The "high" of 55.5 cents a pound at the Billings sale probably was the highest price paid for Western territory wools in many years. The bulk of the offerings were original bag wools and fine graded wools.

July Consumption of Apparel Wool Tops Previous Record

Mill consumption of apparel wool 1/ averaged 11.5 million pounds a week (scoured basis) in July, a new high record. The July rate was 7 percent higher than that of June and 23 percent higher than in July 1941. About 41 percent of the apparel wool consumed in July was domestic wool, compared with 37 percent in June. Consumption of apparel wool on a greasy shorn and pulled basis totaled 610 million pounds in the first 7 months of this year compared with about 532 million pounds in the corresponding period last year. About 277 million pounds of domestic wool were used from January through July.

The increased consumption of apparel wool so far in 1942 has been offset in large part by the decline in consumption of carpet wool 2/ which is not used to any great extent for military purposes. Consumption of carpet wool in July was only one-third as large as in July 1941. Consumption in the first 7 months of 1942 was 40 million pounds (greasy shorn and pulled) compared with 112 million pounds in the corresponding period last year. Consumption of carpet wool was at a relatively high level until restrictions were imposed by the War Production Board at the beginning of 1942.

Army Will Order Large Quantities of Wool Fabrics and Blankets

The Army Quartermaster Division is negotiating with mills for large quantities of military and lend-lease fabrics to be made of 100 percent domestic wool. This is in fulfillment of measures recently agreed upon to provide an outlet for remaining supplies of the 1942 domestic clip. Where

1/ All domestic wool and duty paid foreign wool.
2/ Duty-free foreign wool, used chiefly in floor coverings and press cloth.

mills are now working on Army orders the deliveries on the new orders will follow existing contracts, but deliveries are to be completed by June 30, 1943. Present contracts run through the remainder of 1942 and delivery on new orders will be chiefly in the first half of 1943. The items specified by the Army will require about 78 million pounds of scoured wool, according to commercial estimates. This is equivalent to about 170 million pounds of greasy shorn domestic wool.

Unfilled Orders For Wool Cloth Three Times Average; 3/4 of Total For Government Use

Unfilled orders for wool cloth reported by 119 mills on June 27 totaled 110 million linear yards, according to statistics published by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. Such orders were about 13 percent larger than a year earlier and were about 3 times the average for the years 1936-40. About 3/4 of the total (80 million yards) was for Government account. Unfilled orders for civilian fabrics have been reduced each quarter since the middle of 1941 and at the end of June 1942 totaled only 29.5 million yards compared with 73.9 million yards a year earlier. Delivery of Government fabrics was scheduled through January 1943. Production of fabrics by reporting mills in the second quarter of 1942 was at a rate of about 23 million yards a month.

Table 3.- Wool cloth: Unfilled orders reported by 119 mills, United States, specified dates 1940-42

Date	Men's wear			Women's wear	Auto cloths 1/	Total
	Government	Other	Total			
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards
1940						
March 30	748	21,297	22,045	4,429	1,136	27,610
June 29	9,436	17,564	27,000	12,933	3,064	42,997
Sept. 28	12,806	19,200	32,006	10,919	2,927	45,852
Dec. 28	28,457	25,799	54,256	11,403	2,494	68,153
1941						
March 29	20,148	40,256	60,404	12,170	2,675	75,249
June 28	23,018	49,315	72,333	18,961	5,605	96,899
Sept. 27	29,010	48,546	77,556	17,805	3,097	98,458
1942						
Jan. 3	54,126	34,189	88,315	12,470	1,508	102,293
March 28	51,519	27,243	78,762	10,357	672	89,791
June 27	80,495	21,520	102,015	7,949	9	109,973

Compiled from Monthly Statistics of Wool Manufacture, published by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. Statistics are for cloth containing by weight over 25 percent of yarns spun on the woolen and worsted system. Cloth less than 50 inches wide reported in equivalent 54 inch yardage.

1/ Excludes cloth with pile or jacquard design.

Stocks of Wool and Similar Fibers at Record High

Stocks of wool held by United States dealers and manufacturers on July 4, 1942 totaled 645 million pounds (greasy shorn and pulled basis). This total included apparel and carpet class wools. About 321 million pounds were domestic wools and 324 million pounds were foreign wools. On June 28, 1941 dealers and manufacturers reported 192 million pounds of domestic wool and 246 million pounds of foreign wool on hand. The totals for the 2 years are not strictly comparable because of the larger number of firms reporting in 1942. The July 4 stocks this year were much larger than in any recent year. They were not unusually large, however, in relation to the current high rate of mill consumption and the large backlog of unfilled orders held by mills. The stocks reported by dealers and manufacturers were about 6-1/2 months supply at the July rate of consumption. Because a considerable quantity of the domestic clip is still unsold on farms and ranches in early July, the reported stocks do not include the total supplies of domestic wool available.

A break-down of the July 4 figures shows that about 528 million pounds were wools grading finer than 44s, the grades required in the manufacture of Army fabrics. About 117 million pounds were 44s and coarser, including 30 million pounds of coarse carpet wools. The coarse wools are not being used to any great extent in military fabrics. Stocks of wool and similar fibers reported on July 4 are shown in the following table:

Table 4.- Stocks of wool and similar fibers held by dealers and manufacturers, in the United States, grease basis, shorn and pulled July 4, 1942 1/

Grade	Domestic		Foreign		Total	
	Dealers	Manufacturers	Dealers	Manufacturers	Dealers	Manufacturers
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Sheep's wool						
Ungraded 2/	52,297	---	---	---	52,297	---
Fine (64s and finer)	51,331	65,558	11,572	83,159	62,903	148,717
1/2 blood (60s-62s)	26,265	20,006	6,836	31,228	33,101	51,234
3/8 blood (56s-58s)	32,503	29,708	16,547	34,427	49,050	64,135
1/4 blood (50s-52s)	15,967	18,566	5,063	9,883	21,030	28,449
Low 1/4 blood (46s-48s)	1,847	4,076	2,325	9,318	4,172	13,394
Total above (suited to Army fabrics)	180,210	137,914	42,343	168,015	222,553	305,929
Common (44s)	552	1,698	2,877	8,227	3,429	9,925
Braid and coarser(36s-40s and fine carpet wools)	385	292	13,485	59,742	13,870	60,034
Coarse carpet wools	274	135	3,385	25,789	3,659	25,924
Total sheep's wool	181,421	140,039	62,090	261,773	243,511	401,812
Mohair					8,786	6,439
Alpaca					1,300	983
Other llama fibers					226	148
Camel hair					68	138

Compiled from Wool Stocks Report, Bureau of the Census.

1/ These statistics do not include wool afloat to United States dealers and manufacturers, and wools held by the Defense Supplies Corporation as a strategic reserve. 2/ Warehouse and country dealer wool. The bulk of this wool probably is of fine and 1/2 blood grades.

Livestock: Marketings and slaughter statistics, by species, August 1942 with comparisons

Item	Unit	Jan.-July 1940	Jan.-July 1941	Jan.-July 1942	1941 Aug.	1942 July	1942 Aug.
Cattle and calves -							
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection:							
Steers	Thousand	2,910	3,072	3,714	491	563	
Cows and heifers	"	2,259	2,574	2,823	428	440	
All cattle	"	5,393	5,909	6,806	969	1,048	1,103
Percent cows and heifers are of total cattle	Pct.	41.9	43.6	41.5	44.2	42.0	
Calves	Thousand	3,109	3,132	3,232	414	461	460
Average live weight:							
Cattle	Lb.	950	960	969	962	957	
Calves	"	179	185	190	209	211	
Total dressed weight:							
Cattle	Mil. lb.	2,819	3,120	3,632	509	552	
Calves	"	314	326	345	49	55	
Shipments of feeder cattle and calves to seven Corn Belt States 1/	Thousand	611	616	606	143	74	173
Hogs -							
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection	"	28,220	26,319	30,813	2,796	3,886	3,223
Average live weight	Lb.	235	241	243	261	265	
Percent packing sows are of all purchases at seven markets	Pct.	10	8	10	30	28	33
Total production under Federal inspection:							
Pork	Mil. lb.	3,713	3,582	4,243	415	583	
Lard 2/	"	910	876	1,016	98	139	
Average yield per hog:							
Pork	Lb.	132.3	137.1	138.3	149.1	150.4	
Lard 2/	"	32.3	33.4	33.1	35.2	35.9	
Storage stocks end of month:							
Pork	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	485	434	3/340
Lard 2/	"	---	---	---	288	98	3/ 83
Sheep and lambs -							
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection	Thousand	9,777	10,358	10,918	1,522	1,705	1,840
Average live weight	Lb.	87	90	91	85	84	
Total dressed weight	Mil. lb.	399	436	459	60	67	
Shipments of feeder lambs to seven Corn Belt States 1/	Thousand	719	742	817	379	135	387
Total dressed weight of livestock slaughtered under Federal inspection	Mil. lb.	8,491	8,664	10,070	1,168	1,447	

1/ Total shipments direct and from public stockyards to Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska.
2/ Including rendered pork fat.
3/ Preliminary.

Livestock prices per 100 pounds (except where noted) by species, August 1942, with comparisons

Item	1941 annual average	August 1924-29 average	August 1940	August 1941	1942 June	1942 July	1942 August
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Cattle and calves -							
Beef steers sold out of first hands at Chicago:							
Choice and Prime	12.23	13.61	11.69	12.06	14.09	14.68	15.77
Good	11.36	12.20	10.82	11.58	13.12	13.75	14.87
Medium	10.02	10.35	9.21	10.62	12.07	12.73	13.38
Common	8.64	8.26	7.27	8.54	10.89	10.78	11.27
All grades	11.33	11.91	11.00	11.73	13.11	13.63	14.87
Good grade cows at Chicago	8.43	8.50	7.41	8.72	10.70	10.53	11.29
Vealers, Good and Choice at Chicago	12.17	13.71	10.73	12.41	14.45	14.30	14.88
Stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City	9.93	1/ 8.87	8.53	9.79	11.83	11.09	12.05
Average price paid by packers:							
All cattle	9.14	8.68	8.24	9.57	11.40	11.30	2/
Steers	10.67	2/	9.95	11.03	12.56	12.59	2/
Calves	10.12	10.45	8.33	10.55	12.42	12.22	2/
Hogs -							
Average market price at Chicago:							
Barrows and gilts	9.47	2/	6.69	11.23	14.26	14.55	14.74
Sows	9.34	2/	5.60	10.03	13.82	13.73	13.95
All purchases	9.45	10.77	6.21	10.68	14.19	14.25	14.37
Average price paid by packers	9.42	10.93	6.19	10.81	14.05	14.12	2/
Average price No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago 3/	70.4	102.0	66.0	74.9	84.6	86.0	84.4
Hog-corn price ratio at Chicago 4/	13.4	10.8	9.4	14.3	16.8	16.6	17.0
Sheep and lambs -							
Spring lambs, Good and Choice grade at Chicago	---	13.74	9.40	11.63	15.13	14.43	14.77
Feeding lambs, Good and Choice grade at Omaha	10.27	13.22	8.39	10.63	---	12.52	12.94
Ewes, Good and Choice grade at Chicago	5.43	6.04	3.30	4.80	6.11	5.68	6.01
Average price paid by packers for sheep and lambs	10.16	12.61	8.12	10.06	12.59	12.14	2/
Index retail meat prices 5/	92.4	102.9	85.3	95.6	108.9	109.6	111.4
Index income of industrial workers 6/	127	100	94	136	169	177	2/

1/ 1925-29 average; not available prior to 1925.
2/ Not available.
3/ Cents per bushel.
4/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
5/ Bureau of Labor Statistics, converted to 1924-29 base.
6/ Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1924-29 = 100.

Wool: Mill consumption and machine activity, United States, selected periods, 1940-42

Item	Aggregate				Weekly average		
			Jan.-July 1/		July	June	July
	1940	1941	1941	1942	1941 2/	1942 2/	1942 3/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Mill consumption (revised basis) 4/							
Grease basis 5/							
Apparel wool-	639,618	967,685	547,638	610,344	17,513	19,783	21,585
Domestic	486,756	493,934	261,284	277,242	8,088	8,698	10,511
Foreign (duty paid)	152,862	473,751	286,354	333,102	9,425	11,085	11,074
Carpet wool-							
Foreign (duty free)	138,746	199,453	115,575	39,997	3,329	1,150	1,030
Scoured basis							
Apparel wool	309,163	509,014	291,213	327,752	9,321	10,702	11,461
Carpet wool	98,708	138,917	80,066	28,482	2,293	856	775
			Weekly average in hours				
Machine activity							
Hours per available machine							
Worsted combs	55.1	86.7	85.0	92.0	83.6	90.1	92.5
Bradford	43.5	74.9	72.2	79.2	72.1	77.2	79.8
French	79.4	110.6	111.4	116.5	106.9	114.8	116.7
Worsted spindles	37.7	61.0	58.7	58.4	60.3	59.7	63.1
Woolen spindles	43.2	63.8	60.7	74.1	83.6	72.7	77.2
Worsted and woolen looms							
Broad	39.0	61.4	59.1	71.3	59.6	69.9	74.5
Narrow	13.6	31.7	28.7	35.0	32.8	32.6	31.5
Carpet and rug looms							
Broad	37.9	50.8	49.5	43.1	45.5	39.5	37.8
Narrow	21.9	30.8	30.3	24.9	27.7	21.2	24.8

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ The January-July period covers 31 weeks in 1941 and 30 weeks in 1942, hence the totals are not comparable.

2/ 5-week period.

3/ 4-week period.

4/ New basis adopted by the Bureau of the Census in January 1942. Apparel wool includes all domestic wools and all duty paid foreign wools. Carpet wool includes only foreign wools entered free of duty for the manufacture of floor covering, press cloth, knit or felt boots or lumbermen's socks. In this table data for 1940 and 1941 have been adjusted to the new basis.

5/ Total of shorn and pulled wool. Pulled wool, grease basis, is in condition received from pulleries and is mostly washed.

Prices per pound of wool and other textile raw materials in the United States, selected periods, 1939-42

Item	Average			1941	1942		
	1939	1940	1941	Aug.	June	July	Aug.
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Boston market-							
Territory, scoured basis-							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) staple combing	82.7	96.3	108.8	107.0	120.9	119.0	119.0
56s (3/8 blood) combing	69.3	79.7	91.2	90.4	104.5	104.5	101.5
46s (low 1/4 blood)	62.6	76.1	82.3	83.4	91.5	91.5	91.5
Bright fleece, greasy-							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) delaine	32.9	38.0	43.1	42.0	47.0	47.0	47.0
56s (3/8 blood) combing	36.2	41.2	46.8	45.6	49.0	49.2	50.0
46s (low 1/4 blood)	35.5	41.0	46.5	48.0	48.5	49.3	49.5
Foreign wool - in bond at Boston 1/							
Sydney - scoured basis 64s, 70s, good combing	58.6	67.9	72.7	70.3	79.0	79.0	79.0
Cape - scoured basis 12 months, combing	53.7	62.9	70.9	68.8	76.5	76.5	76.5
Montevideo - grease basis -							
Merinos (60-64s)	26.1	31.2	40.4	41.0	43.0	43.0	43.0
1s (56s)	28.3	32.4	38.8	39.5	42.2	42.2	42.2
Prices received by farmers, grease basis, 15th of month	22.3	28.3	33.5	35.3	39.7	39.2	39.4
Textile fibers:							
Wool, territory fine staple 2/	82.7	96.3	108.8	107.0	120.9	119.0	119.0
Cotton, 15/16" Middling 3/	9.30	10.17	13.92	16.14	18.94	19.42	18.37
Rayon yarn, 150 denier 4/	51.6	53.0	53.6	53.0	55.0	55.0	55.0
Rayon staple fiber 5/							
Viscose 1-1/2 denier	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Acetate 5 denier	46.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0

Compiled from reports of the Agricultural Marketing Administration except as otherwise noted.

1/ Before payment of duty. Compiled from the Boston Commercial Bulletin.

2/ Scoured basis, Boston market.

3/ Average at 10 markets.

4/ Domestic yarn, first quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

5/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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